

To Love-Ru: Reconnect

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Summary: Lots of things fall out of the sky and into TLR gang's life, but when a boy named Max falls into town things change a little. Rito gets another guy in the house to help balance the scales. Momo takes an interest in the boy but struggles to admit it. Some things stay the same for the group, but others change as Max seizes his second chance at life in a new world full of mystery.

## 1. Chapter 1

**\*\*(\*\*\*\*\* ) = Scene/Location/Time Change\*\***

Chapter 1: Max Lockton

It was some time around midnight, the dark haired boy looked up at the stars that painted the sky on the country road he found himself on. The teenager had decided to take a stroll to calm his nerves. His parents, if you could call them that, were never around but when they were they argued endlessly.

"If you don't love each other don't get married you idiotsâ€|" the high schooler growled.

The boy exhaled deeply and watched as his breath floated away like smoke into the cold night. His entire life had been some sort of cosmic joke as no matter what he tried he watched anything around him fall apart. His parent's relationship, all of his friendships except one had failed and the one that didn't may as well have because the two were from separate classes, and even plants seemed to hate him as he could never successfully grow a single thing in the class garden.

"I wish I could just escape." Max muttered to himself.

"How badly?" a voice questioned.

The boy turned to look for whoever had spoken to him, but only found empty space. He turned to continue his walk believing it had only been his imagination but was surprised to see a robed figure standing underneath the only light on the road.

"They weren't there before." Max noted internally.

"How badly do you wish you could escape?" the figure stated again clarifying the question.

"Have you ever heard the story about the two men and the ocean?" Max countered with his own question, but the figure didn't respond.

"It's a story that pretty much says you should want something as badly as you want air when you're drowning." Max explained adjusting his glasses out of habit.

"Are you drowning?" the shrouded person asked with a hint of a giggle.

"Yes." the young boy replied with absolute certainty.

"I see," the figure said raising their hand, "then let your wish be granted."

Suddenly, the ground began to crack underneath him. As the world shattered like glass the boy let himself fall. Max was about to scream and flail but he stopped himself and devoted his brain to attempting to rationalize the situation.

"This has to be some dream, I'll just wake up and return to my life and forget this within a few minutes." Max thought to himself though somewhat disappointedly.

The dark haired boy fell freely through pitch black darkness that enveloped him, ahead of him a pinprick of light grew until it became the image of a bright and colorful world. The cartoon like shades of the landscape astounded the boy and as he got closer to the ground he exponentially lost his composure.

"OHHHHHHHHHHH SHIT!" he screamed just as he struck the earth.

\*\* (\*\*\*\*\* ) \*\*

"Is he ok?"

"Hmmmâ€¦ Probably!"

"Oi what do you mean probably?!"

"It's not like we put him there! How would we know you beast!?"

"Hey hey he's waking up!"

Max opened his eye to see a large purple pair looking back into his. After a moment's hesitation he realized that his face was extremely close to that of a pink haired girl. Startled he tried to stand up but wound up bumping heads with her and knocking his glasses

off.

"Where the hell am I? How did I get here?" the dark haired boy asked to no one in particular.

"That was one heck of a fall you had. We sensed your impact and fall on a radar system designed for detecting aliens." The girl he had just smashed heads with replied ignoring his other questions as she rubbed her forehead and stood up.

She then bent over and picked up Max's glasses and began to study them.

"It's amazing that these managed to stay on while you fell." She said glancing at Max.

Ignoring the comment Max examined his surroundings. He found himself in a meter deep crater surrounded by three pink haired girls, a boy with golden brown hair, and a child that seemed to be giving him the death stare.

Max's brain went into over drive as he thought, "A crater? Wait did she say I fell? What the hell is going on the last thing I remember is that dream with the weird shrouded figure and thenâ€¦"

Interrupting his train of thought, the boy of the group slid into the crater and patted Max on the shoulder.

"Nice to meet you, my name's Rito Yuuki." He stated introducing himself.

"Ah um, I'm Max, Max Lockton." The green eyed boy replied awkwardly.

"That's a unique name!" the tallest girl noted rather energetically, "I'm Lala Satalin Deviluke. That fall was spectacular."

"Um, thanks?" Max replied not knowing quite what she meant, "But where am I?"

"Japan." Rito replied.

"Ok, so same country." Max sighed with relief.

"What?" the pink haired girl with pigtails all but shouted her next words, "You fell from the sky and you aren't from space?"

"From space?" Max said slowly as he finally noticed that the three girls all had tails, "Could they be..?"

"Nana keep it down." Rito said as he sweat dropped, "and Momo please give him his glasses back."

The girl that had been over top him was now wearing his glasses and looked like she was pondering something.

"So her name is Momo." Max thought as he gazed at her.

"But these aren't real glasses." She stated.

"Yeah, they were a gift a long time ago." The dark haired boy explained with a hint of remorse as he remembered the man he thought of as his grandfather giving them to him.

For a brief moment Momo looked shocked at his response but quickly hid it and returned the glasses.

"Ah, Rito!" Lala exclaimed, "We're gonna be late to school!"

"Crap we'll just have to take him with us and introduce him to Mikado Sensei." Rito said as he started clambering out of the crater.

"Come on." Momo commanded grabbing Max's arm and pulling him along as the five of them ran.

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They arrived at school with time to spare. The group left max in the infirmary with Mikado Sensei and headed to their classes. Nana ran ahead to tell Mea all that happened, but Momo walked to class.

"He fell to earth, but he's not an alien." Momo mumbled to herself thinking about the new boy that had quite literally fallen into their lives, "who could he be?"

Momo stepped into class and was instantly surrounded by boys. The image of being surrounded by the opposite sex instantly snapped her out of her thoughts.

"I don't have time to be worrying about this," Momo informed herself, "I have to focus on the Harem Plan."

With that last thought the bell rang and class began. The teacher introduced Yami to the class and the blonde assassin known as "Golden Darkness" went and took her seat in the back of the class. At the next break Momo observed as Yami rejected two boys that tried to talk to her. She decided against talking to her too after the incident the night before she figured Yami didn't trust her much either.

"What I need to do is figure out how to get her into the harem." Momo muttered quietly to herself.

The next chance she had Momo decided to go check on Celine and the new boy in the infirmary, but when she got there she only found Mikado and Celine. She looked around to see if he was anywhere in the room.

"Looking for Max?" Mikado inquired with a wry smile.

"No!" Momo answered a little too quickly drawing even more of a grin from the nurse.

Momo cursed herself mentally, "What am I doing looking for him? I don't even know him."

"Well in case you aren't looking for him he isn't on the roof top," Mikado Sensei chided teasingly, "and he certainly couldn't use any company with what he's going through."

With that the doctor went back to playing with the plant child until she got a look like she remembered something important.

"How is that new transfer student doing?" the older woman inquired.

"It feels like there are walls around herâ€¦" Momo replied sheepishly remembering the rejection of the two male students, "she seems a little unapproachable."

"Ah, I figured, she can be clumsy you know" the doctor stated sadly, "I knew her before she came to earth. Underground doctors and assassins run in similar circles. I'd like to see her lead a peaceful life with the rest of you. Please look out for her for me."

"Oh." Momo said shocked at the request, "yes mam."

(â€¦)

Hey everyone this is my first work so ã• hope you enjoy it please leave feedback. I know it's a bit of an overdone and washed out concept, but I still think it's something both enjoyable to read and to write. I'm going to stick with a lot of the events from the story, but I do plan to make some of my own as well. Any ideas or concepts you'd like to see and I can certainly include them as filler chapter while waiting for more cannon to be published to base the story off of once this catches up. I plan to parallel a lot of the story as I said before, but there will be an original villain to counter our new character, so look forward to it.

A.H.

## 2. Chapter 2

\*\*(\*\*\*\*\* ) = Scene/Location/Time Change\*\*

Chapter 2: Far away, but very close.

With a heavy sigh Max pushed the door to the roof open. He needed some fresh air and Mikado had said this was the place to get it, but when he opened the door he found he wasn't alone. On the roof top with him there were two people, a red haired girl and she was leaning over top ofâ€¦ RITO?!

"That's odd,\_" Max noted internally, "I would've sworn up and down Lala and Rito had some sort of thing based on how Lala acted on our way here. Could I have been wrong?"

It was then that the dark haired boy noticed that Rito was very much asleep and the girl seemed to be watching him sleep. He decided to walk over and see what this was about.

"Anything to get the depressing stuff off my mind." Max mumbled to himself, but in that very moment the girl seemed to notice his presence like she had just woken up. It was in this moment that Max sensed from her an odd feeling that he couldn't place.

"Who are you?" the girl said as her blue eyes cast a venomous glare.

"Max," the green eyed new guy replied simply, "I don't know what you were doing, or anything about Rito for that matter either since I'm new here, but he has Lala so if you had any intentions I'm going to have to ask you to back off."

"Tch!" she grumbled disappointedly, "another anti-pervert."

"I wouldn't go that far, but I don't know anything about you and all I know is there are people that would miss him." The dark haired teen clarified defensively, "If I hadn't have felt a weird vibe from you I wouldn't have said anything."

"You're weird." The girl put bluntly and it felt like daggers had been run into Max's chest, "But if you must know I was entering his dreams."

"Isn't that sort of thing something you keep secret?" Max asked plainly while on the inside his thoughts went more along the lines of:

"Oh great, first cute girls with tails that are likely aliens, though I haven't asked so who knows, but now there's another odd one. Poor Rito, if this is his every day I really feel for the guy."

"Master said it was safe to tell you." The girl said, "I'm Mea by the way."

"Nice to meet you Mea, and wait is that because she doesn't think anyone will believe me?!" The green eyed boy replied more than a little indignantly.

Giggles were his only response because suddenly a gust of wind swept across the rooftop and a blonde girl in school uniform appeared. Her hair turned into a blade and she struck at Mea who defended herself with her own hair blade. Rito remained asleep as if nothing was going.

"Could this day get any weirder?" Max wondered aloud.

The blonde girl suddenly noticed the dark haired boy's presence and cast a glare as she spoke, "Who are you? Rito is my target."

The last bit about a target seemed to be directed at Mea so the boy adjusted his glasses and answered, "A new guy, I guess you could say I just dropped in."

"No need to worry Yami Onee-Chan," Mea replied with a smirk, "Master would be angry if I were to steal your target, and other than having a high tolerance for the abnormal that boy is harmless."

Max wasn't too sure how he felt about being called harmless, but he decided to let it go and watch the scene unfold. No more words were exchanged as the red head left the roof top. After Mea left Yami eyed Max in silence skeptically.

"I'm not sure I'd say harmless," Max sighed breaking the silence, "but I'm certainly no threat to you and I have no intention of harming Rito."

Seeming satisfied the girl left the rooftop without another word leaving Max alone with the still asleep Rito. By some miracle the golden brown haired boy had slept through the small scuffle between the two girls.

Sometime later Rito stirred and woke and saw the new boy sitting beside him watching the clouds. Rito sat up and yawned stretching his muscles and waking himself up.

"You sleep like the dead." Max stated casually as Rito stood up and got his blood circulating again.

"Did I miss something important?" the older boy asked.

"Not really," the green eyed newcomer replied, "though judging by the number of bells I've heard you probably missed a couple classes.

"Eh!" Rito exclaimed incredulously, "Why didn't you wake me?"

"Didn't see a reason to," Max answered, "I figured you had a reason to sleep and I'm in no position to disrupt that."

"You're a pretty serious guy." He replied.

"Not really," Max laughed in reply, "It's just the perfect weather for a nap, so why make that go to waste."

The younger boy was right Rito noted that there was a soft gentle breeze giving an air of calm to the deserted roof top. It then dawned on the golden eyed boy that he hadn't asked why the other boy was on the roof top with him.

"What are you doing up here?" he asked. "Aren't you supposed to be with Mikado Sensei?"

"We already reached a conclusion on my situation." Max replied simply.

"Conclusion?" Rito stated quizzically.

"This isn't my Japan," Max informed the older boy, "my home town doesn't even exist in this world."

"Eh?!" Rito shouted, "Are you going to try and get back to where you're from?"

"Probably not," Max said, "The world here is interesting and beautiful. In one day I've met girls with tails, an alien doctor, a plant that looks like a baby, a couple of girls with hair for weapons, and a boy at the center of it all. I never felt like I could chase anything in my world. Here I can pursue a goal."

"What goal are you chasing?" the older boy wondered aloud.

"Don't laugh." Max warned.

"I won't." Rito assured the younger boy.

"To be the strongest in the universe." Max mumbled with a hint of embarrassment.

"Sounds like something out of a manga." Rito replied but he didn't laugh.

"You're one to talk." The younger boy joked in reply as he gently punched the older boy in the arm.

The two burst into laughter as they realized how casual they were being when they had just met earlier that day. How the two found themselves talking about ridiculous subjects like every day occurrences just inexplicably amused the two teenagers.

Rito thought of how most people he talked to couldn't understand how it felt to be so out of place, but with Max it was different. The younger boy had just appeared in this new world and rather than try to blend in he set a goal for himself that seemed to set him apart even more.

For Max, Rito was like an older brother with a respectable vibe and he sensed a desire to help others in him that he never got from the guys back home. Rito seemed like the kind of guy that just attracted people to him and befriended as many as he could while maintaining his sincerity towards all of them.

"Ah," Rito began as he got an idea, "do you have a place to stay yet?"

"No place other than Mikado's," Max answered truthfully, "and I'd honestly rather not take up a spot with all the patients she has."

"Would you like to stay with me?" Rito offered.

"Hm," Max thought aloud, "I wouldn't want to be a bother, and if you had a reason to be sleeping up here I'm not too sure how much rest I'd get."

"Ah hahaâ€¦ about that." Rito began as he explained the situation with Momo to the boy, including the bit about the Harem Plan as well as informing him that the sisters were actually princesses.

"She only did it for your safety?" the younger boy questioned skeptically.

"That's what she said." Rito replied dumbly, "The worry over Golden Darkness is definitely real."

"I wonder if that mysterious blonde girl was this 'Golden Darkness'? She did seem rather strong and someone Max would need to beat to become the strongest." Max thought to himself as he spoke, "Well then I'd be happy to if you'd have me."

"Great let's go tell the others!" Rito stated as the last bell rang. Excited to have another boy under the same roof Rito smiled broadly.

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Momo was leaning against the door and had heard every word of the two boys' conversation. Rito must have really wanted a guy friend that could understand the type of situation he was in. She concluded this as he had just told the boy about the princesses and offered him a place to stay even though they barely knew each other. She had to admit that Max was fairly interesting to say the least. He had just come out of nowhere and was already declaring that his goal was to be the strongest and befriending Rito Yuuki.

"How cliché" the pink haired beauty mumbled to herself thinking of Max as she hurried down the stairs so as to not be discovered of having eavesdropped.

She rushed to her locker and waited for the boys to catch up. As they approached she shifted back and forth and spun her hair around her finger. When they were within earshot she called out.

"Rito!" she called.

"Ah, Momo." He said separating himself from the conversation with Max to notice her, "What's up."

"You missed meeting Nana's new friend Mea." The pink haired girl informed Rito and noticed as Max tensed briefly at the name.

"Ah what a shame," Rito said casually, "Maybe next time."

"I don't think we got to really say hello this morning," Momo said addressing Max, "I'm Princess Momo."

"Max Lockton," the dark haired boy replied casually, "is your head ok?"

"What?" Momo sounded shocked like she had just been snapped out of trance.

"Your head," he repeated gesturing at his forehead, "I gave it a bit of a knock when I got startled this morning. Are you ok?"

"Um," the girl replied awkwardly, "Yeah I'm fine."

At that moment Rito's phone buzzed and as the boy answered shouting could immediately from the other side. The boy's posture and expression dropped until he hung up.

"Mikan said that I have to pick up more ingredients if you're staying with us." Rito explained.

"Sorry for the inconvenience." Max said rubbing the back of his head.

"It's no problem she'll hold it against me not you," the older boy said, "sorry Momo could you show Max the way home for me."

"Certainly," Momo replied outwardly but internally she was disappointed to not be walking home with Rito.

Rito then sped off shouting something about catching up with them later. The two were left walking alone awkwardly as neither knew what

to say.

"Um" they both started but neither finished.

"You really like Rito don't you." Max stated looking away.

"Where's that coming from?" Momo responded astounded at the forwardness of the statement.

"You seemed disappointed when he wasn't walking with us." The dark haired boy explained still facing away.

"You could tell?" the girl asked as her pink hair hid her eyes as she looked at the ground.

"I had a hunch." He answered sounding disappointed to be correct, but Momo couldn't quite figure why.

Momo continued to walk in silence as she wondered to herself how this guy who had only just met her and Rito could tell she had feelings for her sister's fianc  . At first glance there wasn't much to him but now that she looked at him she couldn't help but wonder what those eyes saw. She was about to say something to him when she realized the house was right up ahead.

"The house is right up ahead." Momo stated echoing her thoughts.

"Cool." Max replied seeming oddly for a change from the subject he started.

"So you aren't staying with Mikado?" she asked pretending she hadn't heard the boy's conversation with Rito.

"No," Max answered looking towards her, "I don't want to be a bother to her. With all the business she gets I think I'd only get in the way."

"That makes sense," Momo replied thoughtfully, "well just to warn you it can get a little hectic around the house."

"So I've been told." Max replied laughing.

"What's so funny?" the pink haired girl questioned.

"I just thought how weird it is that we just met and I'm moving in with you all." Max explained and continued laughing, "It's completely different from the kind of life I had at home and I'm looking forward to getting to know you."

Momo's face flushed red as she stuttered at what the new boy had just said, "O-oh."

"Ah sorry," Max said still laughing, "I mean all of you. Though getting to know you specifically will be fun too."

Momo couldn't help but smile as she thought how cute the boy appeared when he laughed. When he smiled genuinely she noticed a dimple appear in his left cheek. Her thoughts were interrupted by an explosion from inside the house whose gate they now stood at chatting.

"Wonderful first impression, everyone." The youngest princess mumbled sarcastically as she sweat-dropped.

(â€|)

Hey there again, so I laid a lot down in this second chapter so that I can get to the more fun and humorous parts in the following chapters. Next time look forward to how the Yui scenario would have gone if Max were around. I have some good ideas bouncing around and just to clarify, just because Momo may develop feelings for another doesn't necessarily mean she won't keep pursuing the Harem Plan for Rito. Hope you're all enjoying. Feedback is greatly appreciated.

### 3. Chapter 3

**\*\*(\*\*\*\*\* ) = Scene/Location/Time Change\*\***

Chapter 3: On your side.

"Smells like a pyrotechnics shop in here." Max stated casually as he and Momo entered the house.

"How can you be so casual about that sort of thing?" Momo questioned astounded as she turned towards the boy.

"I'm sure I don't know what you mean." The boy replied as his eyes twinkled with excitement from behind his glasses.

The pink haired princess was floored by the sheer joy conveyed in Max's eyes as she spoke, "I guess your eyes can't hide anything."

"Say something?" Max questioned not having heard her.

"Nothing." Momo said flatly looking away.

"Hm." Max replied just as a small girl in an apron came around the corner wearing an apron.

She looked the slender boy in his jacket up and down before speaking, "You must be Max, I'm Mikan. I'm Rito's little sister."

"Ah, sorry for the burden." The dark haired boy apologized.

"It's no issue I just needed to give Rito a hard time about not asking me first," Mikan said glancing at Momo, "and it looks like it might turn out to be beneficial for me as well."

Before more could be said another explosion could be heard from upstairs. A smile crept across the new boy's face. He kicked off his sneakers and ran upstairs to check out what had just happened. The dark haired boy hollered thanks down the stair case, leaving the two girls standing at the foot of the stair case.

"He's not scared?" The brunette questioned looking at Momo in shock.

"Quite the contrary," the pink haired girl giggled, "he's excited about being someplace new."

"Well that's different." The younger girl stated flatly as she tried to determine if that was good or bad, "Since we have more people would you mind helping with dinner?"

"Not at all." The princess replied as she followed the younger girl into the kitchen.

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The sun had set on the new town and Yui Kotegawa sat in her bathtub with her face partially submerged as she thought about Rito Yuuki. He was constantly committing shameless acts that were harmful to the public decency of the school, but she could still never get him off her mind.

"Absolutelyâ€¦ shamelessâ€¦" the high school girl muttered to herself before submerging.

"Even still," Yui wondered to herself, "I wonder what he's doing nowâ€¦"

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At the Yuuki household chaos had ensued. Rito was being chased around by Nana for having another will-of-god incident when he went to fetch her, Lala, and Max after arriving home at Mikan's request. Now the high school boy found himself running for dear life through his own house while his new friend and his potential fianc   chatted.

"I can't catch a break." Rito hollered as he was chased by the second princess of Deviluke through the house, "Max can't you help?"

"I'm busy hearing about you and Lala met," the dark haired boy replied lazily, "and besides, you did fall on top of her in a pretty perverted way."

"Not you too!" The older boy cried.

"So you're a princess from planet Deviluke?" Max asked casually returning to the conversation.

"Yup!" Lala replied, "Dad is the current king of the universe."

"Mom handles most of the political stuff though." Momo added as she entered and sat on the smaller couch adjacent to the other two teenagers.

"Dinner is almost ready!" Mikan called from the kitchen, "Could someone set the table?"

"I got it!" Max hollered back.

The dark haired boy left the room to go find out exactly how the younger girl wanted the table set. The second Max was gone Lala cast a gaze over at Momo, who watched the boy closely as he left. The first princess tilted her head as she examined the look in her younger sister's eyes.

"Momo do youâ€¦" Lala began but she was interrupted as Rito ran into the room.

Before more could be said the high school boy with unnatural habit of falling tripped and tumbled head first knocking both Lala and the couch she had been sitting on over. Max re-entered with Mikan carrying plates of food to find the two pinned under the couch in a very provocative position.

"Get a room you two." Max sighed with a smile as he set the plates down on the dinner table.

"We aren't doing anything!" Rito insisted waving his hands in exasperation only to hear a wild moan and realize he was holding Lala's tail, "Ah! Sorry!"

"You're hopeless." Max laughed as Nana entered the room to find the scene.

"What are you doing to my sister you beast!" the enraged sister shrieked as she charged toward the two older teens squirming out from under the couch.

Before she could there however she found that her feet no longer touched the ground. Kicking about wildly the young girl realized she was being held off the ground by the collar of her shirt by the boy that had fallen from the sky just earlier that day.

"What do you think you're doing?" she protested, "I'm a princess! Unhand me!"

"Dinner is ready," Max stated flatly, "I don't care if you're a princess either. If you're going to let a meal someone fixed for you get cold then you're just being ungrateful. Besides don't you think that since Rito was running from you then it's partially your fault too? Also you'd probably end up making things worse. From what I've seen in the few hours I've known Rito is that the acts of god get worse the more people are involved."

The dark haired boy finished his lecture and sat the previously angry pinkette down and continued setting up as all present watched in silence. The group was shocked, not only had the boy managed to defuse Nana, but he had also deduced the exponential nature of Rito's unnatural ability.

"What just happened?!" Nana, Momo, and Mikan all thought in unison with gaping mouths as they were astounded by what had just transpired.

"Thank you." Rito said with tears of joy streaming from his eyes as he broke the silence.

"You asked for help earlier and I didn't give it to you so that makes it my responsibility as well." Max answered with a hint of embarrassment as everyone sat down for dinner, "Let's just get to this delicious food. I'm starving."

"Thanks for the meal!" everyone shouted deciding to just accept what had just happened and dig into dinner.

After dinner the groups divided as the girls began their bath rotation and Rito showed Max to their room. The boy's walked up the stairs and straight to the one boy's room in the house.

"Jeez, you really saved me back there." Rito sighed with relief as they shut the door.

"No problem." The younger boy replied nonchalantly as he eyed the game console in the corner of the room.

Rito noticed the boy's gaze and answered the unasked question, "Oh that's the old console, we got a new one when Momo and Nana came to live with us so I got to keep the old one to myself."

"Got any good games?" the Max asked not braking his gaze.

"Yeah a couple of fighting games if you think you could beat me." The older boy answered challengingly.

"I don't think anything," the dark haired boy stated as his tone of voice changed, "I \_know\_ I could beat you."

"Pretty big talk for a new guy." Rito replied getting serious as both boys wore expressions akin to manga delinquents.

Both boys rushed to the console and sat down gritting their teeth in monstrous smiles. Neither boy held back their competitive nature regarding videogames as they let their fingers fly. Shouting and rough housing followed every round as the two maintained a constant tie.

Downstairs Mikan and Momo couldn't help but sweat drop at the sound of the boys' intense showdown. Ignoring the noise they continued washing the dishes. Lala and Nana had opted to take the first bath and the other two decided to do the dishes.

"That new is something else." Mikan began plainly.

"Even I was shocked when he defused Nana with logic." Momo agreed drawing a laugh from both girls.

"Still the fact that he just accepts all of this at face value is a little suspicious don't you think?" the middle schooler continued.

"You did the same thing according to Zastin and Rito." The pinkette recalled.

"But I saw with my own eyes." The younger girl protested.

"And he fell from the sky into a different universe." Momo defended before realizing what she had said.

"Another universe?" Mikan pressed.

"Well," the princess replied biting her lip nervously, "I'm not sure if it's a secret or not so I probably shouldn't repeat what I heardâ€¦"

"You already started so you might as well." The brunette pushed with more than mild curiosity.

"Wellâ€¦" Momo repeated Max's account of his arrival and the mysterious figure that dropped him here, as well as informing Mikan that Max's hometown didn't even exist in their world.

"Oh," The girl replied curtly.

The rest of that night went by uneventfully. The next day the group headed off to school leaving Max alone at the house. During lunch break Rito went with Mikado Sensei to get the principal to allow Max to enter as a first year. After filling out the proper paperwork it was decided that Max Lockton would start as a transfer student tomorrow. After school Rito stayed after to thank the alien doctor for her help and then left. As the boy was leaving he noticed Kotegawa Yui leaving as well.

"Hey Kotegawa," The boy greeted as he began changing shoes, "are you headed home too?"

"Yes," the dark haired girl replied seeming a little startled at first, "where are Lala and the others?"

"Nana and her new friend Mea are hanging out and Momo went with Lala to go do some shopping or something like that." The boy answered.

"Mea." Yui thought coldly remembering their encounter, "That's the red head that said she had wanted to ask Rito to lick her. How shameless?!"

"Hey," Rito began interrupting the girl's thoughts, "we're heading the same way so why don't we walk together."

"Don't you have to pick up Mikan?" Yui asked trying to hide her blush.

"No she went to clean up my Dad's place today." Rito replied, "I'm headed home help Max with dinner since he offered to cook tonight."

"Max?" the dark haired girl asked tilting her head.

"Ah," Rito realized he hadn't introduced the boy to anyone yet, "he's a transfer student that's staying with us."

"Oh thank god it's a boy." The girl sighed with relief.

"What was that?" the brown haired boy asked not having heard.

"Nothing!" Yui replied quickly.

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As Momo flew home she spotted Rito and Yui walking together. The two had paused at the park and seemed to be reminiscing about something when it struck the pinkette that this was the perfect opportunity to progress the harem plan. After setting the principal on their tail to

keep the two together longer Momo simulated a rainstorm with her rain flower.

"There now they have a reason to be alone in the house together." The mischievous girl commended herself before coming to the realization that they wouldn't be alone, "Crap! I forgot about Max!"

It was too late however the two had already entered the house. Inside they were in the middle of introductions.

"Ah Rito you're home," Max said as he walked around the corner to see his friend and an unknown girl completely soaked, "and you brought a cute girl home. Don't you think you're playing the field just a little too much?"

"It's not like that!" the older boy assured, "This is Kotegawa Yui, she's a friend from my class and we were walking home andâ€¦"

"You got drenched in some freak rainstorm?" the dark haired boy finished the statement, "Well your clothes are soaked, so you should change out of them or you'll catch a cold. I'll prepare extra food for dinner."

"Ah, thanks." Rito said smiling, "You should probably take a shower so you don't get a cold Kotegawa."

"Eh?!" the dark haired girl replied shocked by how quickly the two boys communicated.

"Don't worry I won't peek." The younger boy answered, "I'm Max by the way, nice to meet you Kotegawa-Senpai. Rito texted me and told me I got accepted to your school and I don't plan on pissing off the disciplinary committee before my first day."

"O-oh" Yui uttered in reply, "But wait how did you know I was on the disciplinary committee?"

"Hm?" the dark haired boy replied, "Oh that, I heard some students say you were a stiff, but you seem alright to me."

An imaginary dagger pierced Yui's heart as the boy walked away leaving her slightly depressed at what her fellow students had said about her. Rito laughed awkwardly at his roommate's bluntness before turning to Yui.

"Go ahead and take a shower," Rito instructed her, "I can't touch the girls' clothes, but I'll see what I can find for you to wear while your clothes are in the drier."

"Oh, um ok." The girl replied as Rito headed upstairs.

Yui headed to the bathroom, got undressed, and slipped into the tub while blushing at the fact that she was taking a bath in the same tub as Rito. The rain outside seemed to be coming down in full force as it hit the bathroom window.

"It wasn't supposed to rain today." The high schooler muttered to no one in particular.

On the other end of the house Momo was sneaking into the kitchen from

the back door after just having put up her force field and CGI illusion to set the mood, but there was one more thing she needed to do.

"Hey Max," the pinkette called to the boy in a low tone to not be heard.

"Oh hey Momo," Max replied not picking up on her desire for discretion, "You're home early."

"Eheheh, you could say other I made new plans." The princess replied still trying to figure out how to get the boy out of the house.

"Harem Plans?" the green eyed boy inquired bluntly not looking up from the cook book he was reading.

"Yes, wait what?" Momo stated after a moment's hesitation.

"There was no forecast for rain," Max answered her internal questions, "of course that alone isn't odd freak storms happen, but you're perfectly dry and you're home right after them. Not to mention the fact that it's still raining outside or at least that's how it appears."

"He's sharp." Momo screamed to herself in morbid humiliation at how she'd been figured out.

"Rito told me about the harem plan yesterday," Max continued, "so it wasn't that far of a jump."

"Are you going to stop me?" the princess asked worried if this new boy would become an enemy to her. An idea she dreaded for more reasons than one.

"Depends," the boy elaborated whilst adjusting his glasses, "why are you trying to form a harem?"

The pink haired girl hesitated before answering, "It would make everyone happy, there are a lot of people that are in love with Rito, and it would be best if everyone who's happiness depends on him could be happy."

"Including you?" the dark haired new comer asked a little sadly while avoiding eye contact, when he received no answer he continued, "Well then I guess I'll help you."

"What?" the princess stated shocked at what the new boy had just said.

"You're looking out for everyone else's happiness," Max explained as he turned toward Momo with a smile, "so I want to make sure you're happy too. You want me to leave the house so they're alone right? I have to pick up some ingredients from the store for dinner anyway."

The boy stood up to leave when he felt a small hand tug on his black jacket. He turned to see the princess, eyes downcast, holding on to him. The boy was at a loss for what was going on, so he remained still until the girl spoke.

"This plan is botched anyway," the princess began while still avoiding eye contact, "Yui is probably already on edge about you being here and seeing her, and also calling her cute and telling her students were badmouthing her within five minutes of each phrase probably confused her emotionally, so I think I'll pack up this operation for safety purposes, butâ€¦"

"But?" Max inquired as he turned to the girl.

"But since you messed this one up you have to let me come with you?!" Momo shouted looking up at the boy.

"Eh?" the dark haired first year was completely dumbstruck.

"I don't want to be stuck here with them so take me with you to the store." The princess commanded.

"S-sure?" Max sweat-dropped, "I need help finding the convenience store anyway."

"Let's go." The pinkette said as she stormed toward the door.

"What? Hey wait up!" Max shouted as he scribbled a note for Rito grabbed the grocery list and headed out the door after the suddenly tsun princess.

\*\*(\*\*\*\*\*)\*\*

The two walked in silence as Momo lead the way to the store. Steamed spilled out of Max's ears as he failed to wrap his mind around why the girl was with him. Before leaving the two had disabled the CGI and taken down the force field, but what bugged Max about the whole thing was that a girl that was trying to make a Harem for his new friend, with herself included as far as he could tell, was now exhibiting tsundere tendencies toward him.

"We just met there's no way she likes me so that's outâ€¦" The boy muttered through different deductions but failed to come to an answer.

"What are you muttering about?" the princess asked curiously having regained her composure and lost the tsun.

However, that was only externally that she regained her composure, internally Momo was screaming bloody murder about what had just happened. Not only had she completely botched an attempt for furthering the Harem Plan, but she had done it to spend time with a boy that WASN'T RITO.

"I love Rito-san." Momo assured herself mentally, "and there's no way Max likes me soâ€¦ wait, why does it matter if he likes me or not? I don't like him! We just met there's no way. Geez, what's up with him though? Dropping lines about making me happyâ€¦"

The pink haired alien girl glanced over to see the boy concentrating intently on something to the point that steam was starting to come out of his ears before muttering to herself, "baka, don't just say stuff like that to a girl."

"Did you just say something?" the green eyed boy asked.

"The store is right up ahead." The pinkette answered.

"Ok cool," Max said relieved, "I just need a few ingredients."

"What do you need anyway?" Momo inquired.

"It's a surprise." The boy laughed.

"Oh?" the girl pressed now intrigued.

The two came up to the store. The neon lights had just been turned on as dusk fell on the city and the lampposts flickered on. The phosphorescent glow illuminated the faces of the two teenagers. The odd tension between them on the walk to the store fell away just as the sun dipped below the horizon.

"Wait and see." Max teased the princess as he walked inside the store.

Momo waited underneath a lamp post for the new housemate to return when suddenly she heard shouting coming from inside the store. Mea, the girl she had met the other day and had been introduced as Nana's friend ran out of the store carrying bags of what seemed like candy. Max was right behind her and trying to get her to come back when owner grabbed him and started shaking the boy furiously. The pinkette ran over to see what had just happened.

"Pay for you and your girlfriends stuff right now!" the old man hollered at Max at point blank.

Momo's chest inexplicably tightened as she thought, "Max is with Mea?"

"I already told you she's not my girlfriend!" Max insisted, "I don't know her!"

"Whatever just pay up you stupid kid!" the owner replied furiously.

"Alright alright." Max relented as he reached for his wallet only to find that it wasn't there.

"Is there a problem kid?" the owner asked.

Max looked at Momo pleadingly as she walked over and spoke, "I'll pay for him and the girl."

"Not very manly of you makin the girl pay for you kiddo." The owner said looking at Max.

"Shut up." Max mumbled defeated, drawing a giggle out of Momo.

After the situation was sorted out the two began their walk home. Momo wore a smug expression on her face that disquieted the high school age boy to the bone.

"What are you so happy about?" Max inquired.

"Oh, just this." Momo answered as she victoriously held the receipt.

"You wouldn't." the boy shouted in disbelief.

"What's the flank steak for Maxy?" The princess replied with a scheming smile.

Max's posture collapsed in defeat to the point where the bags he carried almost touched the ground. The pink haired princess giggled and threw out a victorious peace sign while sticking her tongue out a little.

The two looked at each other's expressions and began to laugh as the continued the walk home. Upon arriving back at the Yuuki house the two entered to find quite the scene. Rito was wedged between Lala and Yui's breast and appeared to be suffocating.

"Typical Rito." Momo said sweat dropping.

"You're a busy guy Senpai." Max added humorously as he and Momo kicked off their shoes and headed toward the kitchen carefully stepping around the disaster zone.

"Dinner will be ready in an hour so find something decent to do until then." Max added as he ducked into the kitchen to fix a meal for this new group of friends.

(â€|)

Whew this was a long one and I still feel like a few moments are rushed. A longer chapter warrants a longer after thought I think, so I'd just like to let you all know a little about how I write these chapters as a bit of a self-analysis. If you aren't interested then just skip to the last one where I'll say more about the story.

So I write these on a two sitting minimum basis. The first time I sit down I crank out as much of the story as I can. Then in the second sitting I try and clean it up and tweak word choice here and there. Because I don't have a proof reader as of yet I do both parts alone and I'm still liable to miss a few things here or there, but because I do it myself it also gives me time to adjust the story through the process as well. This chapter took a few tries which is why there's a bit of a delay in its release.

Story wise, so remember how I promised a Yui in this chapter? Yeah I forgot about that until about half way through. Whoops. But I think it turned out well and the next chapter will start out with finishing off the night and dinner. And before you jump to conclusions I'll clarify that Momo hasn't fallen for Max, yet. She's at the point in a crush where it's there, but you don't admit to it. This is why she gets a little tsun in this part of the story. Sorry if that's too OOC for you, but I think letting characters develop like people do, situationally that is, is what makes fanfiction so fun to read and to write. That's more than enough out of me for today. See you next time.

P.S. I write this last part exactly how I would say it, so if it bugs you feel free to skip it or skim it.

AH

#### 4. Chapter 4

\*\*(\*\*\*\*\*) = Scene/Location/Time Change\*\*

Chapter 4: First day

"MEATBALL HOT POCKETS?!" Momo cried in astonishment.

"Ohhh these are good." Her older sister Lala stated already having begun to dig into the meal.

The group began to eat while Momo glared daggers at Max and he replied with the same victorious smile she had worn when she held the receipt. She then begrudgingly bit into the meal she had been kicked out of making half way through.

"Oh didn't I tell you?" Max gloated, "I was picking up ingredients for tomorrow nights meal."

"Oh you're cooking tomorrow too?" Mikan asked while enjoying the meal.

"Yeah," the dark haired boy answered, "I want to do something in return for you guys letting me stay with you for free. I used to read a lot and I read a lot of cook books since I lived pretty much by myself, so I figured I could help you with meals."

Nana turned toward Rito and spoke, "Why can't you be this decent?"

"What's that supposed to mean?!" Rito shouted in protest.

All the while Yui sat watching the group laugh and horse around. She couldn't help but feel out of place. All the people here were so free with their thoughts and open to each other. Even the dark haired boy Max seemed to fit right in and he had apparently just arrived yesterday. She couldn't help but think the group looked like a family with the casual and familiar air about them. It was then that a nudge brought her back to her senses she looked to see the dark haired boy looking right into her eyes before smiling.

"They're all really good people Senpai," the boy began, "I just showed up and they took me in."

"Y-yeah." The upperclassmen replied nervously at speaking to the boy.

"I think you're a good person too. You just need to smile a little more honestly." Max continued, "Because I get the feeling that if you were honest with your feelings, all of them, then you'd be able to see how these people can be like this. From what I hear you always speak your mind, but how much of that is what you really want to say."

The girl was speechless, a boy that she had just met was answering a question she hadn't even asked herself yet, "So do you know what makes them all so happy and carefree?"

"Yep!" the boy replied with twinkling eyes, "it's kind of cheesy, but it's each other. You should join the fun. You'll see what I mean."

Before the dark haired girl could reply a plate of food smacked her face. She was about to shout, but then she saw the perpetrator was none other than Celine. The green haired girl rocked back and forth clapping her hands.

"Kotegawa are you ok?" Rito asked timidly.

"Y-yes." She replied while the boy tapped her on the shoulder.

As she turned her eyesight was obscured by a flash that left her blinded. When she regained sight she saw the younger boy holding a phone with a teasing smile.

Yui was embarrassed beyond belief and about to shout when she remembered the younger boy's advice to join in on the fun. She reached for some more food from the table and threw it at Max hitting him right in the face. The room was stunned into silence. Max grinned ear to ear as he reached for something to throw back and grabbed some meatballs from his plate.

The food fight that ensued bordered on hysteria as even Lala pulled out Mr. Food Food Maker to fuel the fight. Mikan had been protesting when she was hit in the back of the head by Nana and following that all bets were off. Momo sat baffled until a small meatball hit her face leaving a red mark. She turned to see Max smiling at her through the chaos.

"Would you like to join us your highness?" the boy taunted, "or is this below your royal morals."

"It's true that a princess would never get her hands dirty," the pinkette began, "but they also never step down from a challenge."

Momo flung a banana from her sister's generator at the dark haired boy like a boomerang, but he artfully dodged. The two were at war, they joined the others in the battle royale until everyone was a mess and the room was a disaster. It was past curfew so Yui got permission to spend the night, and Mikan tasked the boys with cleaning up the living room while the girls rinsed off and got ready for bed.

"That was a lot of fun." Rito began while scraping food off the wall.

"Yeah," the younger boy replied cheerfully.

"And who would've thought that Kotegawa could act like that?" The older boy trailed off.

Max turned to see the older boy seeming to be thinking about something. The boy smiled at his job well done. Not only had he managed to get Yui to come out of her shell he had gotten Rito to notice.

"You never know what secret sides people have to them." Max said as

he hummed.

The two boys finished cleaning earlier than expected. The girls were out of the bath, so the boys decided to go hop in. The two sat and relaxed after cleaning up. Steam relaxed the boys, while cleaning the mess up had been easier than expected they were still exhausted. Rito was the first to get out. He left the younger boy a set of clothes to wear since his only set was in the laundry. Rito entered his room and laid out a futon for his younger boy and got into his own bed. The brown haired boy passed out instantly.

Meanwhile, downstairs quite the event was unfolding. Momo snuck into the bath and saw a clean set of sleeping clothes that she recognized as Rito's she quietly slid the door shut behind her. Just as she was reaching for the door to surprise Rito it slid open on its own and revealed Max standing on the other side. Both of their faces flushed red as they both realized what had just happened.

"Rito already left!" Max said as he slammed the door, but not before Momo got quite the eyeful.

Noticing how uncharacteristically flustered the boy was Momo seized the opportunity to tease him, "Aw, why are you wearing a towel."

"Because I was drying off!" Max let out an exasperated sigh as he slid down the door, "The better question is why you DON'T have one."

It was just then that the pinkette looked down and realized that Max had just shut the door for her sake. She had dropped her towel before she went to open the door. Her face turned an even brighter shade of red as she let out a squeal and dropped covering herself.

"How much did you see?" the girl asked quietly,

"The steam filled the room so I didn't see anything." He lied.

"Really?" Momo asked with a sniffle even though she knew just as well as he did that it was a lie.

"Really." The dark haired boy reassured her.

"That's good." The princess sighed.

The two sat in silence with their backs against the same door. Both sat in uncomfortable silence. Max was pinned in the bathroom and Momo was still too embarrassed about what had just transpired to leave.

"You were pretty flirtatious with Yui even though you said that you'd help me." The princess asked not wanting to sit in silence.

"I was?" Max inquired back.

"You even took her picture?" Momo stated meekly which drew a laugh out of the boy on the other side of the door, "What's so funny?"

"I've been here a day and I don't even have my wallet with me from home." The boy laughed, "That wasn't my phone."

"Thenâ€¦|" the pink-haired princess racked her brain for answer.

"That was Rito's phone," explained Max, "and he doesn't seem to know how to change the screen saver, so I set it to Yui-Senpai's face."

"Won't that just cause problems?" the girl replied turning to look at the door and the silhouette of the dark haired boy.

"But Yui knows I took it, and I'm sure she'll recognize it and just remember what I told her." Max reasoned.

"Told her?" the purple eyed girl pressed.

"That's between her and I." the boy informed the pinkette, "Just know that it got her to join the food fight, and that Rito even said she seemed different and seemed to be thinking about her."

"Wow," the princess sounded surprised from behind the door, "you're good."

"I wanted to make it up to you." Max stated hurriedly, "That's all, I just felt bad about messing up your plans and for tricking you about the food."

"By the way," Momo recalled the events of the evening, "how do you know Mea?"

"I don't," the boy replied, "I just didn't want her to shop lift. I did meet her at school on my first day, but I'd hardly say I know her. She told me that shoplifting was how she always got food. I hope she's ok"

Another pang hit Momo's chest tightened at these words of concern for the red head. Momo cursed herself mentally. She couldn't understand why she had felt lonely when Max had paid so much attention to Yui or to why she felt sad when the dark haired boy seemed concerned about Mea. She had just met him AND she loved another.

"This is getting out of hand." The princess thought as she stood up to leave.

"Hey Momo." Max called and his tone of voice stopped the girl in her tracks. It was sweet and caring.

"Hm?" the princess replied hesitantly.

"Never mind." The boy dismissed his own statement, "See you tomorrow."

With that the girl left and the boy entered the second room and got dressed. The next day the group walked to school together with Yui. That morning Max had left early to go check out the school and fill out the rest of the paper work with Mikado Sensei, but when the group got to school Max was nowhere in sight.

The bell rang for class to begin and it didn't seem like the teacher was going to be announcing a new student. Momo sighed with relief of not having to be around the boy that was keeping her attention a majority of the time, but did feel a little disappointed that the new boy wouldn't be in her class.

It was in this moment that a knock came at the class room door. Mikado Sensei entered the classroom accompanied by a reluctant boy. Max wore the standard school pants like the ones Rito wore, but on top he wore the black zipped up hoodie he had been wearing the first day he arrived. It was just then that the school nurse turned and saw the boy was wearing it.

"Didn't I tell you to take that off already." The woman said hitting the boy on top of the head.

"Yes, butâ€¦" the dark haired boy began, but the woman's glare silenced him, "yes mam."

Max took off the jacket revealing the boy actually had some muscle to him. He wore a short sleeve white collared shirt with the top buttons unbuttoned revealing a black shirt underneath. The short sleeves revealed that he was actually more toned than the hoodie let on this earned an instantaneous swoon from the girls of the class.

"What are they swooning at?" Momo mumbled to herself as she reimagined the toned nature of his torso, "It's the rest of him that's really surprisingâ€¦"

No seemed to hear her, but when Momo looked up she caught the dark haired boy blushing and dodging eye contact when she looked at him. The princess smiled at the new power she had over him with the knowledge she had about a majority of his body.

"Would you please introduce yourself to the class?" the teacher urged.

"Ah, sorry." The boy apologized nervously as he adjusted his glasses, "I'm Max Lockton. It's a pleasure to meet you all."

"Very good," the teacher stated, "Now let's find you a seat. Ah look there's one right back there."

The boy followed the teacher's gesture and saw that the seat directly behind Momo was empty. The boy couldn't help but laugh and sweat drop at how clichÃ© this was turning out to be, but before he could finish that thought he noticed three other people he knew in the room. Momo's sister Nana, the girl from the rooftop and candy store called Mea, and the blonde girl that had also appeared on the roof.

"Is there an issue?" the teacher asked.

"Ah no, sorry." Max replied as he finished walking toward his seat.

The dark haired boy took his seat and class began. The lessons were easier than the one's the boy had taken in his world. The teacher caught Max dosing off a couple times and tried to catch him off guard but the boy read the board in an instant and provided a solution.

"He's actually a lot smarter than I thought he was." Nana thought after one such incident.

Mea on the other hand was concerned about the boy for other reasons. He knew her secret and could easily blow her cover and end her life as a human. She still needed to work on getting Yami to return to being a weapon in order to please Master. If only she could keep the boy from exposing her until the assassin could arrive then she would be content.

Momo was also on edge since the boy had been added to her class. Not only was he smarter than she had expected, but he also seemed to be popular. When first break came Max was instantly swarmed by the girls of the class.

"You live with Momo and Nana?" One girl asked.

"Yes." Max replied awkwardly having been caught off guard by the ambush.

"Are you an alien too?" another girl inquired.

"Nope." The boy answered.

Momo watched for a minute before standing up in a huff and leaving the classroom. She had other things to worry about. The Max situation had distracted her, but the problem with Yami potentially killing Rito was still very real. The princess twirled her hair while she walked deep in thought until her thoughts were interrupted by a tap on the shoulder.

Momo turned to see Max looking at her intensely, "W-what?" the girl stumbled.

"You were about to hit that pole." The boy answered pointing in the direction the pinkette had been walking and there was in fact a pole less than a foot away.

"T-thanks." Momo said weakly.

"No problem." Max replied as he walked past her.

"Where are you headed?" the princess called after him, "Weren't you hitting it off with those girls?"

"To see Rito," Max replied walking up the stairs towards Rito's class, "he invited me to meet all of his friends."

"Ah," the pinkette stated shifting side to side before realizing he dodged the question, "and what about those girls."

Max paused at the top of the stairs, "They remind me of the people that didn't like me back home. They'll get tired of me soon enough, so I see no point in forming any bonds."

The pink haired princess was taken aback as she saw a side of the dark haired boy she had yet to, but before she could speak Nana came shouting dragging Mea in tow.

"Oi! Momoooo, Maxxxxx." She called down the hall.

The two waited until she arrived shortly about of breath before replying. After a moment the animal loving girl caught her breath and smiled.

"This is my friendâ€|" the young girl began, but she was cut off by Max.

"Mea the candy thief." The boy retorted looking at the red head and remembering the scolding he got.

Mea giggled at this, "So you remember?"

"How could I forget such a memorable first encounter." The boy replied coolly, "I'm off to see Rito."

"That's the same place we're headed!" Nana exclaimed, "Let's all go together to see the beast! Personally I don't want to go but Mea was curious."

"Ah well I'll just let you all go then." The more plant inclined princess began before being pulled by her sister, "You should come too."

"You're oddly pushy today." Momo commented as Nana dragged her along.

"Hmm, I suppose I do feel a little different. I've been happier lately." Nana responded as the two pushed past Max and up the stairs.

"The first time we met?" Mea asked.

"Sure why not?" Max replied simply, "I get the feeling that the golden haired girl and I are the only people that know you aren't human right now, and it's none of my business that you haven't told anyone. So we can just leave it at that."

"You're weird." The red head replied with a smile as she walked up the stairs.

"I'll take that as a compliment." The darker haired boy answered as the two walked to catch up with the others.

\*\* (\*\*\*\*\* ) \*\*

Meeting Rito's friends went as well as to be expected. Yui helped introduce Max, before Rito tripped and pulled her skirt down that is. The entire time Max spent figuring out exactly who liked Rito and who didn't. In spite of some dead ends the boy got a pretty good idea of how large scale Momo's harem plan could turn out to be.

Momo spent most of the time pondering over the strange thing Max had said about his past on the staircase. Her thoughts were interrupted by narrowly avoiding getting caught up in an incident but not before deciding to ask the dark haired boy about his past. After the narrow escape Lala had pulled out an invention, but luckily before the item could be used and subsequently malfunction the bell rang. The four underclassmen said by to their Senpai and ran off down the hall.

The rest of the day passed relatively uneventfully. Max was promptly added to the genius tear of the first years, much to his disapproval and objections. Nana and Mea chatted all through lunch while Momo snuck off to do who knows what. Yami sat and observed the new boy cautiously before leaving to go meet with Mikan. Momo on the other hand couldn't stop thinking about Max and the comment he had made, she resolved to find out sooner rather than later. At the end of the school day when everyone was heading home Max went to go pick up his jacket from the nurse.

"Looking for this?" a female voice cooed.

The green eyed boy turned to see Momo step into view and noticed that she was wearing his jacket. His eyes widened at the sight. His shoulders were broader than hers so the jacket was significantly baggy and the arms were slightly too long, but nevertheless Max couldn't help but feel his heart skip a beat as he thought about how cute she looked.

"W-w-what are you doing with that?" he finally managed to stammer.

"Ohh~ nothing." The princess replied sweetly.

"C-can I have that back?" Max asked still choking up as he was red in the face at the idea of a girl wearing his jacket.

"Note to self," Momo thought with a smile, "Max is generally guarded and hard to read, but when you catch him off guard he becomes completely different. If you wear his jacket then he gets really embarrassed and cute. Wait, what am I thinking!"

"Please?" Max asked again interrupting Momo's thoughts and slowly regaining his composure.

"Depends." The pinkette responded cutely, "Will you do something for me?"

"Depends." Max returned evenly though still blushing, "What is it?"

"Tell me about your past." The princess requested while hiding her smile with her hand in the oversized sleeve.

"Ah never mind you can keep it." The dark haired teen answered as he began to walk away, "It looks cute on you anyway."

Steam shot out of Momo's ears as the tables had been turned on her and she now realized she was wearing his jacket. The boy's scent and imagined warmth was wrapping around her making her blush deepen.

"Ha, two can play at this game princess. If you try and embarrass me I'll throw it right back at you." Max thought as he turned and saw the effect of his words and then her sudden realization.

The princess noticed a smug grin forming on his face as she chastised herself, "He's trying to distract you. I won't let him best me. What to do~| What to do~|"

It was then that she received a flick on the forehead and realized that while she had been lost in thought the boy had moved closer and his face was now the same distance from hers that it had been when they first met.

"Don't get me wrong about this," the boy began as he backed away and turned his back toward her, "I really do think you look cute in that. My past isn't all that interesting, so don't worry about it."

The pink haired girl was speechless. The boy smiled sincerely at her and she cast her eyes downward. The past would have to wait until another day. The two walked out and walked home together.

Later that night in the middle of the woods however a meeting that would spell danger for the peaceful life the group was leading had landed. Mea stepped out of the shadows to greet the blue haired assassin. The two greeted each other and parted with distaste for the other.

"So that's the assassin Azenda." Mea spoke to no one in particular.

(â€|)

Heyo, yet another chapter up for this. I'm enjoying reading your comments and hoping that I maintain a pace for the story that you all enjoy. I'll try not to make it too slow. Next chapter will be titled "A Chilling Past" so look forward to a little of the background (or all of it. Jury is still out on that matter) on our good buddy Max. You'll also get to know a little more about the story's title (maybe, please don't hold me to that.) I hope you're all enjoying please follow and/or leave a review if you're enjoying. See you next time!

-AH

## 5. Chapter 5

**\*\*(\*\*\*\*\* ) = Scene/Location/Time Change\*\***

Chapter 5: Don't mess with friends or family

"I was really surprised to see you outside of school today Yami!" Mikan said as she walked beside her friend toward the park.

"I wanted to go get taiyaki with you." The blonde explained as the two picked a park bench.

"I'm glad," the younger girl replied, "Where do you get the money for the food anyway?"

"Secret." The former assassin responded quickly.

"Eh? No fair!" Mikan complained even though she was still smiling.

"So how have you been Mikan?" Yami asked in between bites of taiyaki.

"Well," the dark haired girl began, "Max moved in with us a couple days ago, so now Rito has a friend. He's also a pretty good cook! You should come over for one of his meals sometime."

"Max?" the golden haired high schooler questioned blankly.

"Ah he's new to town," Mikan explained, "I thought you would know him because he's in the same class as you. Anyway, ever since Max showed up things have been a little different around the house. Momo stopped going into Rito's room and if you ask me I think she has a crush on Max."

Yami didn't hear the last bit of what her best friend had said because she was wrapped up in remembering how the boy had been with Mea that first day. If the boy was a spy then Mikan and Rito could be in trouble.

"Oh and don't tell anyone this," the blonde's friend continued, "but I heard Max and Rito talking about another world that's a lot like this one. I think that's where Max is from."

"Another earth?" the high school girl responded plainly while she was shocked a little internally, "I've read about something like that in the library. Do you believe him, Mikan?"

"Hmm," the younger of the two took a moment before responding, "Yes because Max doesn't seem like the kind of person to lie. I haven't known him that long, but that's what I think."

"Then I'll believe Mikan." Yami stated to herself.

Mikan paused before shaking off her confusion and spoke again, "I'm sorry for just talking about myself Yami-san. Are you doing ok?"

"I'm fine." The girl lied as she thought about everything with Mea and her recent struggle with being a weapon.

"Oh yeah!" the brunette shouted as she pulled out matching taiyaki keychains, "I got these so we could match!"

As the two talked on the bench they failed notice the presence watching them from above. A blue haired woman sat plotting her revenge on the assassin named "Golden Darkness" and now that she had just seen this scene she knew just how to go about it.

Back at the Yuuki household Max and Rito sat completing homework in their room. Max was breezing through his as smoke bellowed out of his upperclassman's ears at the first problem. Max finished and looked over to see his Senpai lying on the ground in defeat.

"You're a little pathetic Rito." Max teased as he looked over the boy's work, "I was learning this in primary school."

"Eh?!" Rito exclaimed shocked as he imagined a tiny Max solving multivariable problems, "Are you by chance a genius?"

"Not by a long shot. I was the dunce of the class back then." The younger boy responded as he left out the part that before he was put

into public school he was in a class of two,

"What kind of school did you go to in your world anyway." The brownish haired boy inquired to his kouhai.

"Shouldn't you be doing your homework?" the dark haired boy nagged and just as he said so a disappointed tut could be heard from the other side of the door.

"Will you help me then?" Rito pleaded as he recollected how poorly receiving help from Lala had gone.

"Fine." The spectacled boy relented as he adjusted his glasses and sat down beside Rito.

Within an hour the two cleared every single problem and the explanations that Max provided actually made sense to Rito.

"He may not want to admit it," Rito thought as he looked at Max as he explained a problem, "but he's actually really smart. Maybe even smart enough to rival Lala."

"Are you listening?" Max inquired annoyed with Rito zoning out as they got to history.

"Ah sorry, can we take a break?" the elder boy asked hesitantly.

"Sure." The dark haired boy sighed.

The two stood and left the room. When they entered the hall whoever had made the noise earlier was gone. Just as the two entered the living room the phone rang and Rito ran to answer it. Afterwards he said he had to run an errand and to tell Mikan that he would be back after doing something for their dad real quick.

"I don't quite get what just happened." Max thought aloud as Rito left, "But it is nice that he has such a good relationship with his Dad."

"Oh?" a female voice chimed, "Do you not have a good relationship?"

"Who knows." The boy stated rhetorically as Momo entered, "Maybe I'm a disgrace, maybe I'm a prince, hell I could even be an orphan for all you know."

"You're such an ass." Momo huffed in frustration.

She had found herself increasingly more comfortable around Max. Earlier that day they had eaten lunch together and discussed Momo's Harem Plan until Mea and Nana joined them and the subject turned to more meaningless high school banter.

"Should a princess speak in such a manner?" the boy inquired in mock horror.

"I'm at home I can talk however I please." The pinkette replied continuing with the joke as she sat down at the opposite end of the couch from the boy and propped her feet up in his lap.

"Whatever you say your royal highness." Max responded as he switched the TV on and ignored the fact that she was acting very familiar with him.

"If I keep getting close to him like this then he'll drop his guard and tell me about himself. That's certainly the only reason I'm acting like this. Yeah, I'm just curious that's all there is to it. Not romantically interested in him one bit. Even stillâ€¦ why isn't he noticingâ€¦" Momo assured herself mentally as she stared at the dark haired boy watching TV.

Max abruptly stood up and turned the TV off. Momo detected a change in his mood as his normally bright eyes darkened to a shade of green very unlike the normal emerald color. The boy walked over towards the door and grabbed his jacket. Momo had still been wearing it that day as the condition on getting it back was for Max to tell her about his past, but he didn't seem to care as he slipped his shoes on. The small blue sparks that his black sneakers emitted went unnoticed to the pinkette princess as she found herself unable to look away from the boy's troubled expression.

"Where are you going?" the princess inquired.

"Out," the dark haired boy answered, "I'm going to the park. I need some fresh air."

The boy left the house shutting the door with a slight slam. Momo tried to figure out what had changed the boy's mood, but she could come to no conclusion. Suddenly the princess's phone started to vibrate interrupting her thoughts. When she checked it she saw that it was a program she had borrowed from Zastin's ship that had been set to warn of combat in the local area. Currently a fight between Yami and another assassin was unfolding as the feed showed Yami being battered with a whip. In the background of one of the images Momo saw Rito lying unconscious and Mikan in a trance like state.

The pinkette sprung up as her face darkened in anger. The girl pressed a button on her phone and in a bright flash her outfit changed to her Devilukean attire. She had to get to the park and resolve the issue before Max could get there. Saving Rito and Mikan as well as keeping Max out of danger would surely protect all her friends.

Momo slapped her flip phone shut as she took one last look at the enemy before leaving with the statement, "That blue haired bitch is going to regret attacking my friends."

The pinkette raced toward the park with her wings. She didn't bother looking for Max as she was certain her flight was faster than the boy even if he had run, but as she approached the scene a cloud of dust erupted. When she arrived the picture in front of her was beyond anything she had yet seen.

Rito sat back with his jaw seated in his lap as he had just been saved. The assassin named Azenda the tyrant had been about to end the brown haired boy's life when in a flash and a plume of smoke Max had intercepted the blade and stopped the woman's full force rush forward with the palm of his hand. The whole world felt silent and eerily still as blood trickled down the boy's hand and dripped to the

ground. The woman jumped back and wore a gnarled expression.

"Who're you?!" Azenda snarled in outrage.

"I'm the brunette's Senpai, this chump's close friend, and I don't know the blonde girl but she's his friend so attacking her pissed me off too." Max replied evenly, "The name is Max Lockton and I'm the guy that's about to ruin your day."

"Such insolence!" the bluenette shrieked in outrage, "Do you know who I am?!"

"No," the boy replied taking off his glasses and handing them to Rito, "and frankly I don't care. I was sitting at home relaxing next to a cute girl when suddenly I got the odd feeling that someone is messing with my friends that are pretty much my new family. I had known there was a dark presence in town, but you were too weak to bother with so I let it slide, but know you've gone and pissed me off."

"I'm weak you say?!" the woman exclaimed in an outraged cry, "I have just singlehandedly taken out the strongest assassin in the universe."

Azenda continued to seethe with hatred toward the boy. She became so focused on her animosity toward the new comer that she could no longer maintain her control over Mikan's body as the girl dropped to the ground beside Golden Darkness. Momo rushed to them and decided to observe for the time being and jump in as soon as Yami was healed.

"How did he get here so fast?" the princess mumbled in disbelief as she used plants from her phone to provide first aid to both Yami and Mikan.

"Yes," the dark haired boy replied to Azenda's statement, "You managed to use a hostage to enact a one sided beat down on a girl with her best friend. Assassin or not you're a despicable excuse for a life form."

Azenda had finally had enough of this boy's smart mouthed arrogance. Momo, Yami, and Rito all looked on from their positions at the two in worried anticipation, but no one observing expected what they were about to see.

Just as Azenda lunged forward Max disappeared in a flash and appeared beside the woman before she had managed to move more than an inch. The boy's feet never touched the ground as he spun midair and kicked her sideways. The air around him crackled with static as he crossed space unprecedentedly fast and kicked the woman into the sky before she could hit a tree in the park. Azenda was sent into an ark through the sky dumbfounded as her view of the moon was suddenly obscured by the appearance of the boy yet again.

"Who are you?" she managed to choke out before the boy flipped midair again to build up momentum in his kick that connected with the woman's hut and sent her plummeting to the ground forming a small crater.

Momo sat in awe trying to process what she had just seen. The boy she

had just met that claimed to be an earthling had just used the same fighting style as her father. She had only ever seen it in videos, but she was certain that the dark haired boy that had just entered her life had the same power over electricity that her father possessed.

Rito sat still only for a second before his eyes locked with Max's. The younger boy motioned with his head in the direction of Mikan and Yami. The brown haired boy snapped out of his daze and nodded before running to his sister's side as if to say "Thanks, but we're so gonna talk about this instead of home work."

After Mikan started to wake up Momo immediately ran over to Max. It was only after the dust had settled that the pinkette had realized how worried she had been. The fact that Max could manipulate electricity was certainly something she wanted more information on, but the entire time she was fixing up Yami, Mikan, and Rito all she could think about was that she wanted to hear the dark haired boy say he was ok.

"Hell I'd even go for one of his stupid sarcastic retorts." Momo thought to herself as she ran to where the boy sat watching the knocked out Azenda.

He turned away from the unconscious assassin as the girl approached and the two locked gazes. Max broke the gaze first, which made the princess a little sad, but she ignored that feeling and stepped forward as the boy stood to greet her.

"Well," Max began awkwardly, "You know one of my secrets so I guess the jacket is mine again."

"Max." Momo said with such a tone of voice that the boy's heart melted. The expression in her eyes was a mixture of concern, curiosity, and genuine affection.

For the first time Max felt his normally guarded heart skip a beat. No one had ever really been concerned for him before, and now this beautiful princess that he had only met recently seemed to care for him. It was almost too good to be true, as Max gazed up at the girl in the pale moonlight she seemed more beautiful than the boy had ever noticed before. He couldn't grasp why she cared so much, but he felt himself fall for the

"I'll tell you all about my past. I promise." The dark haired boy informed the girl while avoiding her gaze, "But for now we should just be happy that everyone is safe."

"Are you ok?" Momo whispered her question looking concerned over the boy's hand.

"It's just a scratch." Max informed her with a grin.

Momo was overjoyed at the words. She lost control of herself and hugged the boy wrapping her arms tightly around his torso and burying her face in his chest. The princess didn't give a second to the fact that Yami, Rito, and the recently awoken Mikan were watching or to the fact that she had recently been in deniable about feeling anything serious about the boy. She had labeled as him a friend up to this point, but even she knew that you didn't worry this much about

"just a friend."

She felt as Max wrapped his arms and spoke, "I'm flattered that you worried so much about me princess."

"Idiot, who would worry about you?" the princess responded not unlatching herself from the boy until she was brought back to reality by the awkward cough of Mikan.

"If you two want some alone time we can go." Mikan said with a wry smile as the two blushed and quickly terminated their embrace.

Mikan and Yami exchanged glances and Yami seemed to nod in agreement about something only the two of them knew about. Rito sweat dropped at how easy it got to go back to acting normal after one of these events.

"Rito weren't you doing something for your dad?" Max reminded the boy as he sought for an idea to change the subject.

"Ah crap!" Rito shouted as he ran off, "I'll be home in an hour, save me some dinner!"

The dark haired boy sighed and turned to the incapacitate woman, "Now what to do with you."

"I've already called Zastin to come pick her up." The princess informed Max, "We should probably wait around."

"Eh?!" Mikan exclaimed, "I have to go home and cook, and we need to fix Yami's clothes."

"Then take her home with you. We just won't have left overs." The dark haired boy advised the brunette, "I'll stay here with Momo until Zastin arrives."

"With your midnight snacks we never have left overs anyway." The pinkette teased the boy.

"You knew?!" Max cried out in shock drawing a laugh from the three girls.

"Max Lockton." Yami stated.

"Yes?" the boy responded still dejected over being joked.

"Mikan said she trusts you," the blonde said awkwardly, "and now I do too. You aren't my target so I won't kill you."

"Uhâ€¦thanks I guess." The green eyed boy responded.

Yami nodded to herself in approval for her promise not to kill someone, and so she and Mikan headed for home to patch up Yami's clothes and get started on dinner. Even after nearing crisis the two walked and talked as if nothing had happened.

"Don't do anything indecent to him Momo~!" the brunette called back before heading out of earshot.

"Eh?" the princess managed to utter as she was mortified at what the

girl had just said.

She nervously glanced at Max who looked back at her. Suddenly her face felt hot and it felt like steam was flooding from her ears as if her head were a tea kettle. The boy looked confused at what the younger girl had meant and looked to the pinkette for explanation.

"Why am I getting like this?" the girl wondered to herself, "So I like him more than I was willing to admit before butâ€¦"

Max cleared his throat to draw Momo's attention before speaking with a deep blush spread across his face, "So umâ€¦ are youâ€¦ would you umâ€¦ can you show me around town this weekend?"

"S-sureâ€¦" Momo replied as the same shade of crimson that coated the boy's face spread to hers.

"Inviting the princess on a date?" a male voice said, "You must be stupid or fearless."

"It's not a date!" both of the teenagers said simultaneously.

"What?" a silvery grey haired man exclaimed as he emerged into view, "But the boss educated me on the different ways boys ask girls out."

"That's just in manga!" Momo shouted at the man, "Don't let Rito's Dad give you such distorted views. You've been spending way too much time writing manga with him Zastin."

"Well I must know the groom-to-be's family." The man defended himself, "But you there boy. If you seek to date King Deviluke's daughter you must go through me first."

Max eyed the man curiously before Momo responded for him, "Zastin, he has a power similar to Dad's and is the one that defeated Azenda."

Zastin went pale before completely changing his tone and speaking, "Oh of course, welcome to the family. Nice to meet you! Can I call you second groom-to-be?"

"Absolutely not!" the princess yelled at the captain of the guard, "Just take Azenda and go!"

"Look it really isn't a dateâ€¦ though I wouldn't really mindâ€¦" Max mumbled awkwardly and a little hurt at the Momo's complete refusal.

The man lifted the assassin onto his shoulder and disappeared in a blur as he was teleported to the Devilukean ship orbiting the earth. After that the two were left alone again in the park. A cool breeze blew causing Momo to shiver. Max took off his jacket and draped it around the princess's shoulders.

"Ready to go home?" the dark haired boy asked.

"Y-yeah." Momo replied with a slight blush returning to her

face.

"Then let's go." Max concluded.

Mea sat observing the two from the roof of a nearby building. The red headed girl pouted as she saw the two walk off leaving the scene of the failed plot to convince Yami to return to fighting.

"Don't pout over this," A mysterious voice commanded, "We just got to witness quite the event."

"I couldn't detect a signal drop of strength in the boy when we met." Mea boomed, "No fair. He's going to make sure Momo's Harem Plan wins."

"You needn't concern yourself with him." The voice informed the girl, "Even he will pale in comparison to the power of Darkness that is sealed inside Yami."

"But—" Mea began to argue but the presence left her alone on the roof top, "I want him on our side—"

(—)

Hey there again, it's me the lying author. So I kind of lied, emphasis on kind of, but I hope you'll forgive for the sake of putting more information on Max's world in a pseudo chapter or even in the chapter where he and Momo go out together. I will say one thing about Max's world in that it isn't our world. In fact, the TLR world is actually more similar than the other earth. Oh hey lets refer to it as OE from now on because that's fun and simple. As for the title, I felt like I should change the title because the focus of this chapter wasn't really the past. Next chapter though I am going to try and get more background out of the way so we can have a little comedy for a couple chapters. Also tell me what you think about the fight scenes please. If you have any suggestions for them it would be a great help. I hope you all enjoyed this chapter. See you next time!

-AH

## 6. Chapter 6

### Chapter 6: Rain on the First Date

(Warning: a tad more romance in this chapter than normal and it's long)

Max and Momo both sweat dropped as the whole group walked around them. After telling everyone that Momo would be spending her day off with Max and showing him around town almost everyone they knew had decided they needed to go as well.

"Last I checked I asked Momo to show me around as thanks for patching me up." Max said with obvious annoyance, "So why are you ALL tagging along?"

Between Max and Momo stood Mikan, Nana, Mea, Lala, Rito, Yui, and even Rito's classmate Haruna Sairenji and Yami had tagged along last

minute after meeting them as they toured the small borough of Sainan. The group took up a good amount of the space in the train car as they rode to the next town.

"I was planning on going out anyway." Mikan insisted.

"I go with Mikan." Yami added for herself.

"I was planning on hanging out with Mea. I'm not here for you." Nana huffed.

"I wanted to bug Max and Senpai so I dragged her along." The red head giggled.

"There's a Magical Kyouko event today!" Lala beamed like a child.

"She dragged me along too." Rito followed with obvious sadness at not being able to enjoy his day off.

"I didn't have any plans today and Lala invited me when we ran into each other." Haruna Senpai explained, "Sorry if it's a bother."

"Oh no you're fine." Max assured her before the next person explained their presence.

"As head of the—" Yui began before being interrupted.

"Yeah-yeah, you're here to prevent any shameless deeds." The entire group said in unison.

"Good you understand!" the brunette upperclassman said with a triumphant smile.

"You all are the ones that don't understand!" Max in Momo thought simultaneously.

The train arrived at the station and the group filed off into the larger part of the city. The buildings seemed to be a couple stories larger on average compared to the buildings closer to the house.

"Alright!" Mikan called everyone's attention as they got off the train, "First order of business is clothes."

"Eh?" Max asked taken aback, "What's wrong with my clothes."

"You wear pretty much the same thing whenever you go out," the brunette explained, "you look like a manga character. You need more outfits of your own. You can't just borrow Rito's all the time."

"But my clothes are fine the way they are for now," the black haired boy reasoned, "besides I don't have any money."

"Hehe," the young girl wore a grin of victory as she held up a credit card, "I told Mom about you and she said no one who dressed like that could stay. She gave me permission to use the credit card."

"You're kidding." Max replied in defeat at the sight of the black

card in Mikan's hand.

"It won't be that bad," Momo informed the boy, "In fact I think it could be kinda fun."

"Fine." The green eyed boy finally relented.

After a chorus of new excuses the whole group decided they would tag along. This just made the dark haired boy laugh at how predictable his friends were. As the group walked along looking for a good store Momo and Max managed to drop to the back. Everyone was too busy talking amongst themselves to notice and make a big deal about it.

"This has turned into quite the gathering." The princess giggled.

"Well at least it works out in your favor." The dark haired boy sighed.

"What do you mean?" the pinkette asked genuinely confused.

"No one will confuse us for a couple." Max explained, "You got mad at Zastin for it, so now you don't have to worry about anyone else getting the wrong idea."

"You're an idiotâ€|" Momo mumbled, though she wasn't sure if she was talking to Max or to herself.

"Say something?" the high school boy inquired.

"No." the girl replied avoiding the boy's gaze.

Max was about to push, but he noticed the privacy the two had maintained for a moment was penetrated by the gazes of Mikan, Mea, and Nana. The three girls seemed to be watching the two intensely. Max sweat dropped as the three looked away when they realized he had noticed. A minute or two later the group came upon a nice looking shop. Max was dragged into the shop where a plump woman awaited them.

"I'm Nora." The woman introduced herself in a slightly husky voice.

"We're customers! This boy needs new clothes." Mikan replied showing the woman the card and shoving Max forward.

"Hi." The boy greeted with an irritated tone.

"No no no this won't do." Nora said as she looked the dark haired boy over.

The woman currently judging Max for his clothing was round in many definitions of the word, but Max did feel the need to admit that she dressed well. He cut his eyes around the store to see several other sales agents all miniscule and dainty in contrast to the woman that was manager of the store. The woman grabbed Max jolting him from his thoughts as she pulled him toward a dressing room and threw him in the dressing room.

The next thing Max knew he was being paraded about in different outfits. When Mikan was satisfied the group paid and left the store. Leaving Nora grunting in approval at her handiwork as Max had been forced to leave in the last of the outfits. Nora had tossed his solid black hoodie aside and replaced it with one that was black with electric blue sown in. The boy didn't dislike it, but he felt that it was a little flashy.

Everyone had thoroughly enjoyed the fashion show with at the first year's expense. Rito had fallen on the floor in laughter at more than one outfit. Lala and Haruna promptly took Rito to receive his own makeover and bid farewell as they dragged Rito out for his own dose of humility. Momo seemed to enjoy the event as well, she laughed at the look of embarrassment on Max's face. Mea and Nana took pictures of the more ridiculous getups devised by the fashionista. While this went on Yami informed the other workers at the store of all she had learned about fashion from reading. Mikan had let out a sadistic giggle as she watched the boy's mortification progress into humiliation.

"She can be really scary." Max warily thought to himself.

The group of now six walked along the street examining the stores. Max fell to the back of the group yet again when suddenly he felt a tug on his sleeve. He turned to see Momo motioning to follow her. The boy's only response was a confused look before the pinkette gave up and grabbed his arm pulling him into a run. The two ran in the opposite direction of the group as the princess led the boy through the throng of commuters and visitors.

After several turns the two arrived at an empty riverside park. The teens had effectively lost the group and put several blocks between themselves and their friends. The park was empty and the sky grayed overhead. Exhausted the two slowed down and came to a stop.

"What was that about?" the dark haired boy asked as he attempted to catch his breath.

"Here." The princess replied thrusting out a shopping bag the green eyed boy hadn't notice she was carrying.

"I thought we paid extra to have all the outfits but one delivered to the house." Max stated in confusion as he received the bag.

"Open it," the girl said as she refused to look her classmate in the eye, "This was supposed to be the two of us going out, so I wanted to get you somethingâ€¦ you also did save Rito, Mikan, and Yami for meâ€¦"

Max opened the gift to find a nice looking single strap back pack. It was white with black accents though out. The boy opened it to find his old jacket inside and he couldn't help but smile.

"It's made of pretty breathable material and is water and shock proofâ€¦" the princess continued.

"Shock resistant?" Max inquired.

"It conducts the electricity that gets fed into it into a battery in the bottom of the bag, so it can also be used to charge things. I ran

out and bought it while you were being harassed by Nora and then I asked had Lala add that featureâ€|" the princess elaborated.

"This must've cost a fortune." The dark haired boy stated in disbelief.

"Lala had already invented the technology for a father's day gift so it wasn't an issue." The pinkette told the boy, "and it's not like money is hard to come buy as a princess."

Max smiled and walked over to the girl as he put the backpack on and gave Momo a hug before holding her in close proximity. The princess's downcast eyes turned to gaze up at the dark haired boy's bright green eyes. Her heart beat accelerated as she realized how close the two were.

"Thank you." Max smiled at the girl with his eyes as he spoke, "For the back pack and for saving my old jacket. I'll make sure to repay you and everyone for how kind you're being toward me."

"You don't have to thank me or get me anythingâ€|" Momo replied as she blushed and looked away, "besides it was Lala that went home early to make all the clothes you just got safe to use electricity in."

"At your request." The dark haired teen pointed out, "How do you all know how to do that sort of thing anyway?"

"Lala copied the techniques used in adjusting all of Dad's clothes." The girl replied still blushing at the closeness. "Your power is similar to our fathers to say the least. The way you fight is more of a combination of ability and physical technique than just overwhelming power, but that was the only difference I noticed."

Max was about to point out that the fight had lasted a total of thirty seconds and point out that the girl had extraordinary analytical skills for being able to figure that much out even though he had been moving at the average speed of an electron, but before he could droplets of water started to fall. The two ran to find shelter underneath the bridge beside the park. Just as they stepped under the sky opened up and rain began falling with torrential force around them. Max and Momo slid their backs down the wall until they were sitting. The two looked at each other to see how successful the other had been in their escape from the rain.

It was then that Max finally noticed what the girl was wearing. She wore a black shirt with red laced into the hemming. The shirt had a little frill in the chest and on the short sleeves. The top went very well with the short white skirt the girl had worn in accompaniment. In her hair she wore a white flower pin that contrasted with her purple eyes and pink hair. Max felt his face turn red as he examined the girl. In part for having actually learned something about fashion in the two hours he spent in that god forsaken store, but mostly for the fact that he couldn't take his eyes off the beautiful girl in front of him.

Momo found herself checking Max out the same way he was looking at her. He wore white t-shirt that stuck to his chest from the sweat of running and the rain water. The boy also wore a pair of black jeans that fit well to compliment his overall appearance while still being

relatively baggy. Momo noticed the jacket was the black and blue version of the seven that Mikan had purchased with different color schemes. He also wore a gray flat cap on his head that highlighted the dark black color of his hair and the bright green of his eyes.

Steam shot out of the ears of both teens as they realized what they were doing and quickly looked in opposite directions. They sat in silent for several minutes listening to the pounding beat of the rain on the bridge above.

"Momo," Max began as he watched the rain that pummeled the earth, "I want to tell you about my past."

"Really?" the girl replied astonished that the boy would be fulfilling his promise so soon, "then let's go find the othe-"

"Just you." The dark haired boy interrupted as he turned to face the princess.

"Why just me?" Momo asked as the words made her heart skip a beat. The idea of sharing a secret with the boy she had met a little under a week ago excited Momo as she felt unfamiliar warmth radiate from her chest.

"I'll be blunt," the green eyed boy stated as he stared deeply into the princess's eyes, "It's because I like you, or at least I think I do. We just met but since then you've become someone important to me. The other night when after I saved Rito I sorta realized it I guess. You were concerned about me even though you've known me less than a week and that made me happy. I've never really had anyone worry about me like thatâ€¦ You also have a deep compassion for your friends. You'd do anything for them and even though you plot and scheme your ultimate goal is everyone's happiness. Sorry this probably doesn't make much sense, but I mean it when I say that I like you Momo Velia Deviluke."

Momo felt her temperature rise as a puff of steam shot out her ears at the boy's words. It was true that they had just met, but she felt the same sincerity from him that she felt from Rito. He was also smart and caring and could probably have any girl at the school.

"Why does he have to confess to me?" Momo thought to herself still trying to rap her mind around it all, "I was having a heard enough time sticking to loving Rito without this... noâ€¦ I like him too don't Iâ€¦ but there's no way I could tell him thatâ€¦ what about the Harem Planâ€¦ I suppose one less person wouldn't hurtâ€¦ I'll tell him I feel the same but then whatâ€¦"

Momo struggled with herself in silence. She knew she had feelings for Max, but they made her feel different than the feelings she had for Rito. The question was which one of them was love, but in this question she realized there was another problem.

"Do I still have the same feelings for Rito as I did before I met Max?" the princess questioned herself, "I haven't been sneaking into his room because Max was there, but is that the only reason? I think I like Maxâ€¦ and not Ritoâ€¦"

Momo began to speak a reply to the boy's confession, though rushed she knew that she did have feelings for Max and the fact that she even could question her feelings for Rito showed which was stronger. Of course she planned to still create a harem even though her happiness no longer depended on it. Before the girl could confess her discovery to the boy he began to speak again.

"I know you like Rito and I don't plan to get in the way of that," Max informed the girl, "but I still want you to be the first person I tell about my past because of how I feel about you." I still plan to help with the Harem Plan too, but when it comes time for you to-

Max's next words were cut off as the princess pressed her lips to his. The boy's eyes widened before softening as the unspoken words settled in.

"I like you too Max." wait, what's your middle name?" the pink haired girl realized she had never been told, and he had likely never told anyone other than the teachers, "Is that why you went to school early on your first day!? So no one would see it!"

"No! Well." MAYBE!" the dark haired boy replied energetically as he was still in shock from the kiss, "Ugh let's just start there."

Momo sat down up against Max's side and pressed into his warmth. The rain still poured down around them and the water rushed by in front of them. With no signs of letting up or stopping the boy figured it was now or never to tell someone in this new world who he was.

"My full name is Max Ruairi Lockton." The dark haired boy began in a defeated tone as he waited for a laugh that never came.

The pinkette only drew up underneath the boy's arm and affectionately cooed, "Ru~"

"Huh?" the boy replied blushing at how cute the girl was acting.

"Can I call you Ru?" Momo looked up pleadingly into the boy's eyes as she asked.

"."fine." Max relented knowing that even though he would regret it later he couldn't say no right now after waiting for a content sigh before he continued, "As you probably already guessed my earth isn't like yours at all. That's not to say everyone has powers and abilities and what not, but I'm not abnormal. Our society is ruled by the King Of The World who just so happens to be the strongest man in the world. How original right? Well this King has a daughter named Ella, and rather than challenge the King people instead tried to attack her. I was a little more than a street rat at the time. I was young and my parents were neglectful. They were never home because they hated seeing each other, and I hated seeing them so I ran away."

"You ran away from home? How old were you?" the princess inquired during a brief pause.

"I was about seven years old at the time when I ran to our nation's capital to fend for myself." Max answered, "When I got there however

I wound up almost starving due to the fact that I couldn't find a job. I should've just gone home, but I think even now that I would rather starve than go home. That's when this nicely dressed girl walks by the alley I'm in. She was referred to as the Ice Princess because of her ability to freeze water vapor in the air, but she was also given that name because of how stuck up she was."

"Real charmer." Momo commented sarcastically.

Max laughed and continued, "I was hobbling out of an alley as she walked by. The girl looked dead at me and turned her nose up at the sight of me. That got my blood boiling, so I screamed at her about how just because she had money and power she didn't have the right to look down on others."

"Pretty big talk for a seven year old." The high school girl pointed out in amusement.

"One is never too young to be dissatisfied with their position in the world." The dark haired boy responded, "I'm pretty sure that pissed her off because the next thing I remember is being in jail. Of course I didn't care; I got a room, a bed, and food. Yelling at that snot nosed brat was the best decision I ever made. After a week or so a man came by and opened my cell. He asked me if I was dissatisfied with my position in life. I told him I was and he offered me the chance to change it."

"What was the chance?" Momo inquired.

"To become the princess's loyal royal bodyguard." Max stated with amused bluntness, "I declined, but then he told me that I would have access to everything I needed to change my position in life. I took the offer and for several years I lived life as a guard. I learned everything I needed to and then some. I spent my time either training with the older knights or studying on my own in the library. I lived happily for several years and I even became close friends with the Ice Princess."

"What was her name?" the pinkette pressed wanting to know every detail.

"Sarah Parker, ah and since you're probably wondering, most names in my world are English derived. It has to do with some higher likelihood of having a power in our world." The spoke in a very professor like fashion, "But back to a brief version of my life, I failed at my job in the end. An assassin slipped past the guards and attempted to assassinate the princess. She failed, but because I was in charge of the guard-"

"You were in charge of the entire Royal guard?" the girl asked in pure astonishment.

"Yeah, I had proven to be the strongest, smartest, and most diplomatic guard by age ten. It's not that great of a feat in our world. The King did it by the time he was eight." The green eyed boy informed the girl snuggled up to him under his arm.

"Your people can be pretty intense." Momo stated.

"You're dad tried to blow up this planet because Rito pissed him off

a little." Max retorted.

"Hehe point taken, please continue Ru." The pink haired high schooler urged.

"So because I was head guard I accepted full responsibility." The dark haired boy recalled as he blushed at the nickname, "I was told it wasn't my fault by everyone around me, but I couldn't see how it wasn't my responsibility. I had put the guards in the wrong place. So I left the palace and quit using my power. I had sent money home to my parents so they could afford to send me to school when I got back. They had lived nicely on that some and resented me for quitting. They both lost themselves in their jobs again and grew to hate each other and me even more. As for the kids at school, well word spread that I didn't fight. I was bullied and battered every day for a while until they got bored after a year."

Momo's hand tightened around Max's shirt as he told her about the painful period of his life between the attempted assassination and falling into this world. The boy was very reluctant, but the princess pushed to hear every detail. Even when she began to cry the pinkette urged Max not to stop. At the end of it all the two sat in silence. Momo was horrified at the way people had treated the dark haired. Teachers even refused to stand up for him because they had knowledge of the attack on the princess and Max's failure to prevent it.

"You only ever said you never felt like you couldn't pursue anything." Momo managed to mutter.

"I couldn't," Max answered sadly, "everyone would have worked against me."

"Why don't you hate people?" the purple eyed girl asked as she sat up and turned to look the boy in the eyes, "No one would blame you."

"What would that solve?" the high school boy replied, "I had already isolated myself. Harboring resentment would only make life harder, and even if I did harbor any resentment towards those people then that would have nothing to do with you all."

"You're too good a personâ€¦ but do you have any idea why you were sent here?" the princess stated as she leaned in closer to the boy.

"I think it was so I could reconnect. To remember what it was like to be happy and have a goal. And maybe even so I could meet you." The boy smirked as he answered and leaned in towards the pinkette.

The two locked lips for a second time. Sometime during the story the storm had stopped and now the sun was setting. After the kiss Max gave Momo his old jacket, to keep this time. The girl knew about his past, so Max wanted her to have something important to him like his jacket. Momo slipped on the jacket and the two began to exit the park.

"Why is this jacket so important to you anyway?" the princess asked as she wrapped her arms around one of Max's and the two walked through the streets.

"Hm." Max pretended to ponder, "That's a story for another time."

"Eh? You're no fun Ru~" Momo pouted.

"Pouting won't change the situation your highness." The boy teased.

"Humph!" the princess huffed in discontent.

The two made their way back to the station after night fell and met up with a very displeased Mikan and company. Just when she was about to start lecturing the two of them she noticed something was off about what she was looking at.

"Why are your arms linked?" Mikan asked, "And why is Momo wearing your jacket Max? Where have you two been?"

"Wellâ€¦" the dark haired boy began but before he could explain anything Momo had cast Mikan a mischievous glance, then proceed to stand on her tip toes and Max a kiss on the cheek.

"Just know that next time it really will just be Max and I going out." The girl said eyeing Mikan, Mea, and even Nana then she proceeded to board the train leaving everyone present, including Max, dumbfounded. The rest of the group quickly hopped on the train and settled in for the ride home.

(â€¦)

Whew, this one was another fairly long oneâ€¦ I'm going to go through it carefully and check for any errors, but in some cases I don't notice them until a day or so later. I'm currently in the process of finding all my errors in the earlier chapters so just watch out for that. Sorry that's a pretty big problem of mine. I'll try and get better about it. I promise you that once I catch up in edits I'll only allow a week Max between the first publishing and the language edit. I know that I should probably just take the time to be careful in the first place, but I also want to put out the content and plot for you all. So if it really bugs you and I don't seem to be getting better then just wait for the second update. So, story wise this chapter was pretty loaded. Yes Momo and Max are together. I wanted to put it off longer, but I also felt like there's some stuff I can pull with them as a couple. And Momo is not at all willing to share Max so don't expect a harem plan for him. (Note this does not mean other girls won't be interested nor does it mean there won't be flags.) Unlike with Rito her affection goes beyond the lust, not that there isn't any but I'm not planning on a lemon chapter. Can't wait to write the next chapter! See you next time!

-AH

End  
file.